[II]. That this Hon'ble Court, *vide* order dated 14.02.2000 in Writ Petition (C) No. 202 of 1995, has banned any non-forestry activity within any National Park/Sanctuary, hence, if the area on which non-forestry activity is to be carried out falls within any National Park/Sanctuary, prior approval of this Hon'ble Court and the National Board for Wildlife is required before the proposal can be considered by the Central Government under the Forest (Conservation) Act, 1980.

[III]. According to the Guidelines issued under the Forest (Conservation) Act, 1980, which is contained in para 4.4 of the Handbook of Forest (Conservation) Act, 1980 issued by the Ministry by Ministry of Environment & Forests, some projects involve use of forest Land as well as non-forest land. The State Government/project authorities sometimes start work on non-forest lands in anticipation of the approval of the Central Government for release of the forest lands required for the projects. Though the provisions of the Act may not have technically been violated by starting of work on non-forest lands, expenditure incurred on works on non-forest lands may prove to be infructuous if diversion of forest land involved is not approved. Hence, if a project involves forest as well as non-forest land, work should not be started on non-forest land till approval of the Central Government for release of forest land under the Forest (Consevation) Act, 1980 has been given'.

STAND OF PLANNING COMMISSION, WATER RESOURCES DIVISION:-

"Planning Commission guidelines for according investment clearance (Dated 30.11.2000) clearly stipulates that" any project which is located in an Inter State river or its tributary will be deemed to involve interstate remification and as such need investment clearance from Planning Commission". The Planning Commission's guidelines requiring clearance for change of water use pattern in an inter-state river or its tributary is subject to technical appraisal by a competent agency such a Central Water Commission. If the Planning Commission's guideline is now deemed to apply only for projects where Plan funds (Centre or State) are being used, then the guidelines can be circumvented by saying that the funds used will be non-Plan. This interpretation is too flexible. The spirit of the guidelines is that Inter-State water use pattern cannot be changed without approval irrespective of whether Plan or Non-Plan resources are used.

Finance Aid by ADB

619. MS.PRAMILA BOHIDAR:

SHRI B.J. PANDA: Will the Minister of WATER

RESOURCES be pleased to state:

whether Orissa Government has made a proposal to the Centre for improving irrigation « potential of 22,500 hectares under the command Area Development (CAD) in Gohira, Remal and Sunein irrigation project areas with financial aid of Asian Development Bank (ADB); and

if so, the details thereof, alongwith the status of the proposal?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRI JAY PRAKASH NAYAYAN YADAV): (a) and (b) The scheme for Orissa Integrated Irrigated Agriculture and Water Management Project (OIIAWMP) has been forwarded by Ministry of Water Resources to Department of Economic Affairs who posed the same to Asian Development Bank (ADB). The scheme, *interalia,* includes thee projects namely: Improvement to Gohira Irrigation Project; Improvement to Remal Irrigation project; and Improvement to Sunei Irrigation Project. The activities also include works related to command area

development. However, the Detailed Project Reports (DPRs) have been received from Govt, of Orissa by Central Water Commission during October/November, 2007 for appraisal and technical clearance. In the meanwhile the agreement for project preparatory technical assistance has been signed by the State Govt., Department of Economic Affairs and ADB in respect of above scheme.

Pending Irrigation Projects in Rajasthan

620. DR. GYAN PRAKASH PILANIA: Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state:

whether many irrigation projects of Rajasthan Government are pending with the Central Government;

if so, the details thereof;

the reasons for the projects lying pending;

whether several irrigation projects have been delayed due to financial crunch and various irrigation projects are pending for approval;

if so, the cost escalation due to delay, project-wise;

Government's response thereto; and

the steps being taken by the Central Government for earlier completion of all the ongoing irrigation proejcts?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRI JAY PRAKASH NAYAYAN YADAV): (a) to (c) At present, there are 3 Major and 3 Medium irrigation projects of Rajasthan under various stages of appraisal in Central Water Commission, the details of which are given in the Statement *{See* below). Besides, 4 Major and 4 Medium projects have been cleared by the Advisory Committee of Ministry of Water Resources (MOWR) subject to certain observatons, list of which is given in the Statement II (see below). These projects are yet to receive investment clearance pending compliance of the observations made by the Advisory Committee of MOWR on Irrigation, Flood Control & Multipurpose Projects.

(d) to (f) There is no ongoing, Major & Medium Irrigation Projects in Rajasthan delayed due to financial crunch. However, IGNP Stage-II project which was scheduled to be completed by March, 2006 has been delayed and is likely to be completed during XI Plan. More than 82% of works of the project have been completed and remaining works are delayed mainly due to difficult working conditions.

Other important projects in Rajasthan include Narmada Canal (Major) and Modernization of Gang Canal (ERM). While no price escalation/delay in Modernization of Gand Canal has been reported the revised scope of Narmada Canal with Latest Estimated Cost has been approved by the Planning Commission in 2007. Modernization of Gang Canal & Narmada Canal ae likely to be completed by 3/2009 and 3/2010 respectively by the State Government as per the latest MOU under Accelerated Irrigation Benefits Programme, signed by the State.